

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DRC-01 L-03 EUR-25 SS-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ID

SUBJ: CIVAIR: INDONESIA-U.S. BILATERAL

REF: STATE 241252

1. SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION 19 DECEMBER INDONESIAN DIRECTOR AIR TRAFFIC RISAKOTTA INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE FOR A SHORT TIME TO AUTHORIZE OPERATION PAA FRIDAY SERVICE ON WEEK-BY-WEEK BASIS. ACTION REQUESTED: REASONABLY PROMPT DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF USG POSITION ON CURRENT ISSUE, TO INCLUDE REACTION TO SPECIFIC PROPOSAL MENTIONED PARA 3 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROACHED BY EMBOFF DECEMBER 19 ON BASIS REFTTEL, RISAKOTTA AGAIN EXPRESSED MARKED SKEPTICISM THAT USG COULD DEVELOP SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENT DEMONSTRATING CONFORMITY DISPUTED PAN AMERICAN (PAA) FRIDAY SERVICE WITH BILATERAL. HE SAID HE WOULD HOWEVER BE "AMUSED" TO EXAMINE MORE DETAILED EXPOSE' ON POSITION.

3. ALLUDING TO DIFFICULTY USG WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE IN CONCOCTING A PLAUSIBLE CASE, RISAKOTTA HALF-SERIOUSLY PROPOSED A "SHORT CUT". HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE
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CONTINUATION OF PAA SERVICE IN QUESTION, HE SAID, UPON RECEIPT OF SUITABLE ASSURANCES THAT USG WOULD, AT SOME

FUTURE TIME UNDER BILATERAL, PERMIT INDONESIAN DESIGNATED CARRIER TO OPERATE A SERVICE ORIGINATING AT SOME POINT OTHER THAN INDONESIA MENTIONED IN PARA 2 OF ROUTE SCHEDULE, TO THE UNITED STATES, AND BACK.

4. ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER HE COULD CONTINUE AUTHORIZE FRIDAY FLIGHT ON AD HOC BASIS PENDING RECEIPT FULLER EXPLANATION USG POSITION, RISAKOTTA SAID, "YESS -- UNTIL THEY TURN DOWN MY COUNTERPROPOSAL." PROFESSING TO SEE IN USG APPROACH A DIPLOMATIC (THOUGH NOT UNWORTHY) PROCRASTINATION TACTIC, HE NONETHELESS INDICATED A DISPOSITION TO GO ALONG WITH IT TO A REASONABLE EXTENT. HE WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN TO MORE EXPLICIT ASSURANCE.

5. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE RISAKOTTA FIRMLY ATTACHED TO OWN INTERPRETATION OF BILATERAL AND SEE NO EASY WAY TO MOVE HIM UNLESS GRACEFUL EXIT IS AVAILABLE. AT SAME TIME HE MAY NOT BE IN A HURRY TO GET MORE DEEPLY EMBROILED IN DISPUTE AT A TIME WHEN HE HAS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ITALIANS ON HIS PLATE PLUS DISPUTE WITH PAKISTANIS AND HEAVY PRESSURE IN THANKLESS ASSIGNMENT AS PROJECT OFFICER FOR JAKARTA'S NEW HOTEL BORABUDUR, WHICH HAS TO BE FINISHED FOR PATA CONFERENCE THIS SPRING. FROM HIS STANDPOINT FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD PROBABLY REPRESENT ADDITIONAL BURDEN; FROM OURS, BY SPOT-LIGHTING HIS POSITION THEY MIGHT TEND TO HARDEN IT. IF THEREFORE WE CAN CONTINUE TO TREAD SOFTLY IT IS ALL TO THE GOOD.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN COME UP WITH TECHNICAL ARGUMENT HE HAS REQUESTED, PLUS REACTION TO "SHORT CUT" PROPOSAL PARA 3 ABOVE, PROMPTLY ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HIM OUR GOOD FAITH. (IF "SHORT CUT" PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE TO USG IT WOULD BE WELL TO EXPLAIN RESPECT IN WHICH IT FAILS TO PARALLEL RIGHT WE ARE CURRENTLY CLAIMING FOR PAA.) IT MIGHT PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING IF AT SAME TIME WE COULD INDICATE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING STRICTLY INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN RISAKOTTA AND VISITING AMERICAN CIVIL AUTHORITY AT A REASONABLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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